

Education of the Heart

1 Corinthians 13:13

1. Introduction

If there is any point on which most people would agree, then it is the fact that everyone is looking for love. The purpose of life, we could say, is to become people who can fulfill love itself. Because of man's deviation from God, however, love has taken on a double meaning. The one is the love Saint Paul is talking about; it is God's love, pure love, unconditional love. The other is perverted love, false love, love as a business deal. We are not talking about that here. We are referring to God's love. True love, if you will. And by talking about true love, we talk about heart. It is the heart of Jesus that knew His Father's will, beyond the Old Testament, beyond even Moses' law. Jesus may seemingly have violated Moses law, but Jesus knew the reason why God gave these laws to Moses. So Jesus went beyond the law. "You've got to have heart" is an often-heard expression. Yet, how much time do we spend in our society to educate the heart.

2. Education emphasizes intellect

Looking at our education system, we can see that tremendous amounts of time, effort and resources are used to educate the intellect. We have advanced tremendously, especially in the last 100 years, and we have entered the computer age. Developments are so fast that no one can keep track. All right, it is great to have all these new discoveries at hand that make life more exciting, create more possibilities for communication or traveling. To have more means to fight disease or disaster. Yet if there is no heart for what we do, there is no hope either. An immature heart, that has no love and does not have the love of God, may enjoy the delicious meal on the table, but may not discover Lazarus, who waits for the crumbs to fall.\

3. Biblical example

See the disciples at the last supper, boasting of their accomplishments, claiming to be better at this or that, fighting over their positions in the Kingdom. (Doesn't it sound like election campaigning!) There sits our Lord, listening them. What can he say! Nothing to say! So he gets up, gets a basin with water, and washes their feet! That actually knocks them off their feet! How can our master...? But that isn't his position... "I came not to be served, but to serve." God gave

man a heart, capable of understanding, capable of feeling the essence of that message. But that heart needs education too! Just like the brain, the intellect.

4. Or we emphasize the physical

How about physical education. Boy, the front pages of most magazines are referring to physical education. Sports. Aerobics. Diet. You name it, we've got it! Yet, what happens about education of the heart.

5. Education of Heart is necessary

In our present school systems we actually see that education of the heart is given minimal attention. And when we talk about education of the heart, we talk about learning to understand Jesus. Learning to understand our Heavenly Father. By prayer. By study of the scripture. And, not to forget, by example. In the past, especially going back to the early days of the Pilgrim Fathers, there were three institutions inseparably connected: family, school, church. And it was on body, where the blood (which is the spirit and truth of God) flowed to every limb. Prayer in the family, worshipping God together, for without Him we would not even exist! Prayer at school, for all we can learn we are able to because He gave us that capacity. Worship in the church, for there comes time we must set everything aside to direct our hearts and minds towards Him, to repent, to seek His forgiveness, to seek His guidance for the week to come. Beyond school, beyond family, beyond the church, there is His call for me to be a meaningful instrument in this land, in this world. And I seek for guidance to come to know His will.

6. Basics of education of the heart

But isn't it incredible? Today there is no emphasis on the education of the heart. "But love is the greatest" has become "any kind of love is the greatest." We can hear the desperate call of God in this world, to build families centered on Him. For it is the God-centered family, where a child can be sure to receiving His love, though his or her parents' sincerity, yet, their prayer even prior to birth! If we cannot build God-centered families, where shall God's love find its base? If we cannot build God-centered schools, who shall be responsible to raise children in a Christ-like way? Only when a new awakening comes to this country, only when ungodly, secular forces will be recognized and opposed, shall we be able to provide what a child really needs.

Education of heart, so that love, God's love, will have been seen in society to be the greatest. Let us hear the call of God beyond our personal circumstances to be instrumental in this great task.